

F. WISE DAVID
A. ROSS, TOM

X: U-2 BOOK

18 October 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. This memorandum includes a recommendation in Paragraph 7.
2. David Wise and Tom Ross, of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE and CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, respectively, called to see me today saying that Wise had talked to you last week in North Carolina and thought he found you sympathetic to assisting Wise and Ross in the writing of a book on the U-2 and on the events pertaining to the U-2 from May to August 1960. Wise said that you and he had a lemonade under a tree in North Carolina last week and that he explained to you his book project, saying they would like to get detailed data on the U-2 from its conception up to the May 1 flight. He quotes you as saying that you will be busy for about a month and would see Ross and Wise in about a month unless they are pressed by a deadline that would necessitate your seeing them sooner. They say they are pressed by a deadline and would like to see you as soon as possible.
3. I told Ross and Wise that we had never opened our files to any writer to my knowledge since they are secret and sensitive, and to their request that I show them what press clippings we had on the U-2 I suggested that they do their own research in the Library of Congress because I found, when we gave Dick Harkness a "think" piece by Crosby Noyes on Mossadegh, the speculation became a "fact" in the SATURDAY EVENING POST story and has been a "fact" ever since. I said that I did not think we should do for them the work that they can do on their own in the Library of Congress.
4. I checked with DFD. Their opinion is that of course, like all of us, they will do anything that you want, but they do not believe, for very sensitive reasons of which you are cognizant, that they should give any assistance or open any files to Ross and Wise, not only because of the long period of time that

they would have to give up from other duties, but that there are operational details that should not be divulged. However, Mr. Cunningham wanted to make it clear that anything that you want they will of course do and do whole-heartedly.

5. Mr. Wise, who covers the White House, said that he discussed the project with Pierre Salinger who wished him well and who reportedly said that he could see no reason why they should not get help and they ought to see me. Salinger, of course, is just being the good fellow since he has no responsibility in this matter.

6. I would think that it might be advisable for you to see Ross and Wise together so as to explain to them that we may not open our classified files but that the conception of the U-2, its operation for four years, the excellence as a pilot-photographer of Powers (who was not a trained agent), and the necessity for the May 1 flight for certain classified reasons, are generalities that could be mentioned. However, the details could not be furnished. They have copies of the Russian reports on the trial and some press data but they want specific details which, if given to them, would involve foreign countries, an undesirable feature in my opinion.

7. RECOMMENDATION: That you see Wise and Ross at your convenience but that you not authorize that any classified information be furnished to them or that any of our files, classified or unclassified, be opened to them.

STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director

cc: DDCI